

CLAIMS

1. Machine for decorating a food product, in particular a cake (T), with an ingredient in granular form (G), characterized in that it comprises:

- 5 - a support structure (2);
- distribution means (3) mounted on said support structure (2) and able to project said ingredient in granular form (G) in at least one direction of flow;
- a support base (4) suitable for supporting said
- 10 food product (T);
- movement means (5) mechanically connected to said support base (4) so as to cause rotation of said food product (T) in the vicinity of said distribution means (3) and in such a way as to interfere with said flow so
- 15 as to sprinkle said ingredient in granular form (G) over at least one portion of the surface of said food product (T).

2. Machine according to Claim 1, in which said movement means (5) comprise translation means (6) and

20 rotation means (7), said translation means (6) being able to move said support base 4 between a rest position, for loading and unloading said food product (T), and an operating position in which said food product (T) is made to rotate by said rotation means (7).

25 3. Machine according to Claim 2, in which said

food product (T) has at least one side surface and a top surface and in which said distribution means (3) project said flow substantially over said side surface.

4. Machine according to Claim 2, in which said
5 food product (T) has at least one side surface and a top surface and in which said distribution means (3) can be moved by kinematic means (8) so as to assume several supply positions determined by their movement along at least one portion of the side or top surface of said food
10 product (T).

5. Machine according to Claim 4, in which said movement is a translation which is substantially vertical and parallel to the side surface of said food product (T) so as to sprinkle said ingredient in granular form (G)
15 over at least one portion of said side surface.

6. Machine according to any one of the preceding claims, in which said distribution means (3) comprise at least one rotor (31) actuated by first motor means (32) and seated inside a housing (34) which has at least one
20 supply mouth (35) for forming said flow of said granular ingredient (G).

7. Machine according to Claim 6, in which said rotor (31) is provided with a plurality of radial blades (37) each comprising a first portion (38) which extends
25 along the lie of a radial plane parallel to the axis of

rotation and a second portion (39) which is inclined with respect to the first portion with a different inclination and orientation of adjacent blades so as to create a uniform flow along the whole extension of the supply mouth (35).

8. Machine according to any one of the preceding claims, in which said distribution means (3) are able to be moved towards or away from said side surface by means of adjustable positioning means.

9. Machine according to Claim 4, in which said kinematic means (8) comprise at least one linear actuator (81) mechanically associated with said distribution means (3) so as to cause movement thereof.

10. Machine according to any one of the preceding claims, in which said support base (4) is composed of a plurality of arms (41) each connected at one end to a central transmission shaft (62) which receives its movement from said movement means (5).

11. Machine according to any one of the preceding claims, which can be inserted in particular along a line for production of said food product and which comprises transportation means (100) for conveying said food product (T) from an entrance opening to an exit opening, causing said food product (T) to pass in the vicinity of said distribution means (3).

12. Machine according to Claims 2 and 10, in which said support base (4) is able to receive from or transfer to said transportation means (100) said food product (T) when it is in said rest position and in which said support base (4) is raised with respect to said transportation means (100), not interfering therewith when it is in said operating position.

13. Machine according to Claim 12, having stopping means situated in the vicinity of said support base (4) so as to allow stoppage and loading of said food product (T) onto said support base (4).

14. Machine according to Claim 3 or 4, comprising a screening element (9) for protecting said top surface of said food product (T) from the flow of said ingredient in granular form (G).

15. Machine according to Claim 14, in which said screening element (9) comprises a box-shaped structure (91) provided with an opening (92) for receiving said food product (T) from the side of said top surface.

16. Machine according to Claim 14 or 15, comprising adjusting means (93, 94, 95) operating said screening element (9) so as to vary the screened surface area of said food product (T).

17. Machine according to any one of the preceding claims, provided with a system for collecting said

ingredient in granular form (G) which has not adhered to the surface of said food product (T) after being projected by said distribution means (3).

18. Machine according to Claim 17, in which said
5 collecting system consists of at least one extractable drawer situated underneath said support base (4).

19. Machine according to any one of the preceding claims, provided with a system for supplying said ingredient in granular form (G), comprising at least one
10 hopper (50) and at least one conveying channel (51) connected at a first end to said hopper (50) and at its second end to said distribution means (3).

20. Machine according to Claims 6 and 19, in which said conveying channel (51) conveys said ingredient in
15 granular form (G) to a funnel (52) connected to a supply opening (36) of said rotor (31).

21. Machine according to Claim 19 or 20, in which said conveying channel (51) is a vibrating surface.